

Weekly One Liners 23rd to 28th of October 2023

National Affairs

- The **54th International Film Festival of India (IFFI)** has officially announced its **Indian Panorama selection for 2023**, featuring a diverse array of **25 feature films and 20 non-feature films**. These cinematic gems will be showcased during the festival, scheduled to run from November 20 to November 28 in Goa. ([Click to read complete article](#))
- The **Shri Ram Janambhoomi Trust** extended a significant invitation to **Prime Minister Narendra Modi**, asking him to attend the installation of **Lord Ram's idol** in the '**Garbhagriha**' of the Ram Mandir at the Ayodhya temple, which Prime Minister Modi politely accepted. The date set for this auspicious occasion is **January 22, 2024**. ([Click to read complete article](#))
- The **Shri Ram Janambhoomi Trust** has extended an invitation to Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** to participate in the installation of **Lord Ram's idol** in the **Garbhagriha** of the **Ram Mandir** in **Ayodhya temple** on **January 22nd, 2024**. PM Modi gladly accepted the invitation, expressing his excitement to be part of this historic event. ([Click to read complete article](#))
- India marked a significant milestone in its quest for **self-reliance in the automotive sector** by introducing the production of '**reference**' **petrol and diesel**. This development places India among a select group of nations capable of producing these highly specialized fuels, which are crucial for calibrating and testing vehicles. ([Click to read complete article](#))
- Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** inaugurated the **7th Edition** of the **India Mobile Congress** at Bharat Mandapam, Pragati Maidan, New Delhi. This prestigious event brought together leading figures from the **telecommunications industry** to showcase cutting-edge technologies, discuss vital issues, and promote innovation. ([Click to read complete article](#))
- Union Home Minister **Amit Shah** recently inaugurated the **logo, website, and brochure** of the **National Cooperative Exports Limited (NCEL)** during a grand event in New Delhi. This momentous occasion marked the formal establishment of NCEL, a significant step towards enhancing the cooperative sector's role in India's export ecosystem. ([Click to read complete article](#))
- The **37th National Games** were officially inaugurated by **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** in a ceremony held in **Panaji, Goa**. The event witnessed a massive gathering of sports enthusiasts and supporters, who eagerly awaited the commencement of this sporting spectacle. As a symbol of Goa's culture and identity, Goa Chief Minister **Pramod Sawant** felicitated the Prime Minister with a traditional **Kunbi shawl**. ([Click to read complete article](#))

- As the nation celebrates the **birth anniversary** of the revered 'adivasi' icon, **Birsa Munda** on November 15, the ruling **Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)** government is gearing up to launch its ambitious "**Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra**." This 72-day nationwide outreach and awareness campaign is aimed at **promoting government schemes** and reaching the vulnerable sections of society. ([Click to read complete article](#))

States in the News

- **Tamil Nadu's** Chief Minister **M.K. Stalin** has launched "**Project Nilgiri Tahr**," an initiative aimed at conserving and protecting the endangered Nilgiri Tahr species. The project, with a budget of ₹25 crore, seeks to better understand the Nilgiri Tahr's population, distribution, and ecology, as well as address immediate threats to their survival. The launch of this project took place at the Secretariat in Chennai, where Chief Minister Stalin also distributed books to school students to raise awareness about this unique species. ([Click to read complete article](#))
- Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation, **Shri Amit Shah**, inaugurated the Nano DAP (Liquid) Plant of the **Indian Farmers Fertilizer Cooperative (IFFCO)** at Kalol in **Gandhinagar, Gujarat**. The event, attended by several dignitaries, witnessed Shri Amit Shah addressing the audience on the significance of the day and the critical role played by innovative agricultural solutions in India's progress. ([Click to read complete article](#))
- The **12th edition** of the **Bengaluru Literature Festival**, a two-day event, is set to take place at The Lalit Ashok, Bengaluru starting on **December 2**. The festival will feature around **250 authors**, including renowned names such as Jnanpith awardee, **Chandrashekhara Kambara**, Chetan Bhagat, Ramachandra Guha, and Perumal Murugan, among others. ([Click to read complete article](#))

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- A **Green Tourism Conclave** took place in **Shillong** with the primary objective of nurturing environmentally conscious and responsible tourism in India, with a special emphasis on the **Northeastern region and Odisha**. The event featured engaging discussions, informative presentations, and captivating cultural performances, emphasizing the importance of sustainable tourism practices. ([Click to read complete article](#))
- **Kerala** government has announced a pioneering project to establish a **graphene production facility**, marking a significant leap in material technology. Graphene, often referred to as a “**wonder material**” for its extraordinary electrical and electronic properties, is set to become a cornerstone of Kerala’s innovation landscape. ([Click to read complete article](#))
- **Rajasthan** government unveiled the ‘**iStart Talent Connect Portal**’ at **Jaipur’s Techno Hub**. This new portal is a significant addition to the state’s flagship initiative, iStart Rajasthan, and is a collaborative effort with the Jaipur-based startup, HyreFox. ([Click to read complete article](#))
- **Hornbill Festival 2023** will start on **December 1** and conclude on December 10, promising ten days of cultural immersion and spectacle. The Hornbill Festival stands out as one of the most anticipated and celebrated events of the year. This colorful festival not only showcases the rich cultural heritage of **Nagaland** but also draws thousands of curious travelers from around the world to partake in its festivities. ([Click to read complete article](#))
- Republican Congressman **Mike Johnson** from **Louisiana** has been elected as the **Speaker of the House of Representatives**, marking the end of three weeks of political uncertainty in the **United States**. ([Click to read complete article](#))
- China’s Defense Minister, **Li Shangfu**, was recently removed from his position in a surprising turn of events. His disappearance from public view two months earlier had sparked rumors about his fate. Li’s removal follows a series of unexplained personnel changes in China’s government, raising questions about how power is concentrated and party discipline is enforced under **Chinese leader Xi Jinping**. ([Click to read complete article](#))
- China is embarking on a groundbreaking endeavor by constructing an immense telescope in the **western Pacific Ocean**. The primary mission of this massive facility is to detect elusive particles known as “**ghost particles**” or neutrinos. This ambitious undertaking will result in the **world’s largest neutrino-detecting telescope**. ([Click to read complete article](#))
- **Slovakia’s** newly appointed **Prime Minister, Robert Fico**, has taken office for the fourth time amidst promises to prioritize **Slovakian interests**, reduce military aid to **Ukraine**, and curb immigration. His nationalist stance raises concerns among **EU leaders** regarding potential obstructionist policies. ([Click to read complete article](#))
- **Italy** is experiencing a severe **demographic crisis**, with the number of births hitting a new low this year. Preliminary data from the national statistics bureau **ISTAT** reveals a concerning trend, indicating a continuation of the country’s longstanding population decline. ([Click to read complete article](#))

International Affairs

- In a significant development, the **United States** has imposed sanctions on **three Chinese companies** for their alleged involvement in supplying missile components to Pakistan. These sanctions were issued under Executive Order 13382, which focuses on entities involved in the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and their delivery systems. ([Click to read complete article](#))
- **Sri Lanka**, in a bid to revitalize its tourism sector, has taken a significant step by waiving **visa fees** for tourists from **seven countries**, including **India**. This move aims to attract more visitors and help the country recover from recent economic challenges. ([Click to read complete article](#))
- **China and Bhutan** are working towards resolving their longstanding border disputes. Bhutan’s foreign minister visited **Beijing** for talks with his Chinese counterpart, indicating progress in the negotiation process. ([Click to read complete article](#))
- **The India-Canada** relationship faced difficulties due to a dispute over the killing of a **Sikh separatist** in **British Columbia**. Canadian Prime Minister **Justin Trudeau** alleged that Indian agents were involved in the incident, causing tension. ([Click to read complete article](#))
- **Mike Johnson**, a relatively lesser-known Republican from Louisiana, has taken the elected as the new speaker of the **US House of Representatives**. He has earned the nickname “**MAGA Mike**” among his hard-right colleagues, a reference to Trump’s campaign slogan “**Make America Great Again**”, which continues to be associated with Trumpian ideals. Addressing the House after his election, Johnson promised to quickly move forward on conservative priorities, such as support for Israel and border security. ([Click to read complete article](#))
- As the conflict between Israel and Hamas escalates, Israeli forces are planning to employ a unique array of tactics. Among these tactics is the use of an innovative type of bomb referred to as “**sponge bombs**.” These sponge bombs have the capability to **seal off the intricate network of tunnels** beneath Gaza without causing explosions. ([Click to read complete article](#))
- In a historic move, **Malaysia’s** royal families have elected **Sultan Ibrahim Iskandar of Johor state** as the country’s new king. This decision, made within Malaysia’s distinctive rotating monarchy system, marks a significant transition for the nation. ([Click to read complete article](#))

- The **United Nations**, under the leadership of Secretary-General **Antonio Guterres**, has taken a significant step toward managing the opportunities and challenges posed by **artificial intelligence (AI)**. Guterres emphasized the vast potential of AI for positive transformation, yet acknowledged the pressing need to address associated risks. To facilitate international cooperation and consensus on AI governance, a **39-member** advisory body has been established, comprising tech industry leaders, government officials, and academics from diverse backgrounds. ([Click to read complete article](#))

Agreements/MoUs Signed

- State-owned **QatarEnergy** recently announced a significant development in its efforts to expand its presence in the **European gas market**. The company has entered into a long-term agreement with **Italy's Eni** to supply **liquefied natural gas (LNG)** for a period of **27 years**. ([Click to read complete article](#))
- The **Indian Institute of Technology Kanpur (IITK)** and **Airbus** have formalized their partnership through a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU). This landmark agreement, signed, aims to significantly enhance the aerospace sector's talent pool in India through research and education initiatives. ([Click to read complete article](#))
- **Reliance Jio**, India's leading telecom operator, has entered into a strategic partnership with **Plume**, a California-based company specializing in cloud-based AI-powered services to enhance the digital lives of its nearly 200 million subscribers. ([Click to read complete article](#))
- Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) and Safran Aircraft Engines, a leading **French aero engine design**, development, and manufacturing company, have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) aimed at fostering industrial cooperation and collaboration. This strategic partnership encompasses various key areas within the aviation sector and marks a pivotal moment in India's aerospace landscape. ([Click to read complete article](#))

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Banking/Economy/Business News

- RBL Bank, a prominent player in the Indian banking sector, has announced the launch of its cutting-edge digital banking product, the **GO Savings Account**. This account introduces a novel subscription-based model, which combines simplicity and high-value benefits for customers seeking modern banking solutions. ([Click to read complete article](#))
- HDFC Bank, a leading financial institution, has introduced its cutting-edge digital platform, XpressWay, to streamline and expedite its banking products and services. This innovation empowers customers to enjoy a more rapid and hassle-free banking experience. ([Click to read complete article](#))
- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has recently taken regulatory action against **L&T Finance Limited** by imposing a monetary penalty of **₹2.50 crore** (Rupees Two crore Fifty lakh only) on the company. This decision comes in the wake of a statutory inspection of L&T Finance Limited, which covered its financial position as of March 31, 2021, and March 31, 2022. ([Click to read complete article](#))
- **NLC India**, a **Navratna** public sector company, has unveiled its latest venture into the renewable energy sector. On a mission to bolster India's green energy capacity, the company has established a wholly-owned subsidiary known as **NLC India Green Energy Limited (NIGEL)**. The subsidiary is set to play a pivotal role in the country's sustainable energy journey, focusing on the expansion of renewable energy projects and technological innovations. ([Click to read complete article](#))
- India's economy is on the rise! **By 2030**, its **Gross Domestic Product (GDP)** is predicted to reach a whopping **\$7.3 trillion**, making it the **second-largest economy** in the **Asia-Pacific region**, just after **China**. ([Click to read complete article](#))
- In a strategic move to expand its renewable energy portfolio and reduce its reliance on fossil fuels, the state-owned **Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC)** has successfully secured a bid to acquire **PTC India Ltd's** wind power unit for **Rs 925 crore**. This acquisition marks ONGC's continued effort to diversify its business interests beyond its core hydrocarbon operations. ([Click to read complete article](#))
- **Euro Zone businesses** faced a significant setback this October, with a widespread drop in demand, raising concerns about a possible recession. **The Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI)** for the region fell sharply, indicating economic challenges.
- The PMI for services hit a 32-month low, indicating a sharp decline in demand. Manufacturing also suffered, with a prolonged period below the growth threshold. ([Click to read complete article](#))

- **Illegal instant loan apps** have become a significant problem in India, leading to financial scams and even driving some victims to suicide. These apps offer quick money but compromise users' **privacy and security**. To address this, the **Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY)** in India has proposed a solution. ([Click to read complete article](#))
- **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has issued a crucial circular. This directive places the onus on private banks and wholly-owned subsidiaries of foreign banks to establish a robust senior management team. The primary objective is to effectively steer these institutions through the present and emerging obstacles. ([Click to read complete article](#))
- The Indian central government has given the green light to include the **Jamrani Dam Multipurpose Project** in **Uttarakhand** under the **Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana-Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme (PMKSY-AIBP)**. This decision was made during a meeting chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. ([Click to read complete article](#))
- The Indian government recently announced changes in the subsidy rates for key fertilisers, **affecting nitrogen (N), phosphorus (P), potassium (K), and sulphur (S)**. Despite global price increases, the government aims to maintain affordable fertiliser prices for Indian farmers. ([Click to read complete article](#))
- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has informed lenders, financial institutions, and credit bureaus that they must resolve complaints filed by customers **within 30 days** or **face a fine of ₹100 per day** to ensure that customers' complaints related to credit information are addressed promptly. ([Click to read complete article](#))
- On **October 26**, **foreign institutional investors (FIIs)** continued their selling spree in the **Indian stock market**, while **domestic institutional investors (DIIs)** emerged as net buyers. This trend occurred on the day of the monthly **Futures and Options (F&O)** expiry, with the domestic markets settling lower for the sixth day in a row. 📌 **FIIs:** According to data from the **National Stock Exchange (NSE)**, FIIs collectively bought **₹10,239.05 crore** worth of Indian equities, but they also sold **₹17,941.58 crore**. This resulted in a net outflow of **₹7,702.53 crore**. FIIs have been selling Indian equities due to factors like rising US bond yields and the strength of the dollar index, which have negatively impacted market sentiment. **DIIs:** In contrast, DIIs were net buyers on this day, infusing **₹13,600.71 crore** into **Indian stocks** and **offloading ₹7,042.26 crore**. This translated to a net inflow of **₹6,558.45 crore**. ([Click to read complete article](#))

- **Zomato** has taken a big step to support its women delivery partners by introducing a **maternity insurance plan**. The goal is to make the Zomato community more welcoming and helpful for these women and their families during pregnancy. This initiative is the first of its kind in the industry. ([Click to read complete article](#))
- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has granted in-principle authorization to **Zaakpay**, the secure payment gateway arm of **Mobikwik** to operate as a **payment aggregator**. This authorization paves the way for Zaakpay to onboard new merchants onto its platform, facilitating quick and easy processing of online payments. ([Click to read complete article](#))

Appointments/Resignations

- **Ashok Vaswani**, a seasoned international banker with a remarkable career, is set to take the chair as the **Managing Director** and **Chief Executive Officer** of **Kotak Mahindra Bank**. This transition comes following Uday Kotak's surprise departure from his role. The appointment has received approval from the **Reserve Bank of India**. ([Click to read complete article](#))
- In a significant move, Edtech startup **Henry Harvin Education (HHE)** recently announced acclaimed author and speaker **Chetan Bhagat** as its **Brand Ambassador**. This partnership represents a shared vision and commitment to empowering the youth of India. ([Click to read complete article](#))
- Lay's announces cricketer **Mahendra Singh Dhoni** as its brand ambassador, starring in a campaign – **'No Lay's, No Game.'** Lay's is set to introduce the 'No Lay's No Game' campaign to the Indian audience, globally acclaimed for its association with sports tournaments. ([Click to read complete article](#))
- Actor **Rajkumar Rao**, celebrated for his portrayal of a principled government clerk in the Hindi film **"Newton,"** tasked with conducting elections in the Naxal-affected areas of Chhattisgarh, is set to be inducted as a **National Icon** by the **Election Commission (EC)**. ([Click to read complete article](#))
- **Professor Sarang Deo**, a distinguished figure in the field of Operations Management and healthcare, has been appointed as a member of the **Strategic and Technical Advisory Group (STAG)** for Tuberculosis by the **World Health Organization (WHO)**. This appointment reflects his exceptional expertise and contributions to the battle against tuberculosis, particularly in India. ([Click to read complete article](#))
- **Amol Muzumdar**, the former Mumbai batsman, has been named as the head coach of the India women's national team. ([Click to read complete article](#))

- Luxury Swiss watch brand, **Rado**, a brand known for its excellence in watchmaking has welcomed none other than Bollywood sensation **Katrina Kaif** as its **Global Brand Ambassador**. Rado watches have consistently captivated enthusiasts with their innovative designs and commitment to quality. **Adrian Bosshard**, the CEO of Rado also expressed his enthusiasm about this association. ([Click to read complete article](#))

Defence News

- The Indian Army recently launched 'Project Udbhav' with the aim of rediscovering the profound **Indian heritage** of statecraft and strategic thoughts derived from ancient Indian texts. "Project Udbhav, initiated by the military, aims to tap into ancient Indian treatises such as Chanakya's **Arthashastra**, Kamandaka's **Nitisara**, and the **Thirukkural** by the Tamil poet-saint Thiruvalluvar to glean insights on statecraft, strategy, diplomacy, and warfare. ([Click to read complete article](#))
- The **Indian Military Heritage Festival** took center stage at the **Manekshaw Centre** in New Delhi. The event was inaugurated by Defence Minister **Rajnath Singh**, who was joined by Chief of Army Staff General **Manoj Pande**. The **United Service Institution of India (USI)**, the oldest tri-service think tank of India working since 1870 conducted the annual 'Indian Military Heritage Festival'. This grand occasion served as a tribute to India's rich military history and aimed to inspire the youth of the nation. ([Click to read complete article](#))
- **Israeli forces** have introduced the cutting-edge "**Iron Sting**" system, designed to neutralize rocket launchers with remarkable accuracy, marking the first-ever use of this technology. The Magellan unit, in collaboration with the Air Force, has successfully thwarted dozens of terrorists using various weapons, including the innovative and highly precise mortar bomb known as "**Steel Sting**." ([Click to read complete article](#))

- In a testament to their ongoing defense cooperation, the **Indian and Malaysian** armies have initiated "**Exercise Harimau Shakti 2023**." This joint bilateral training exercise, held at Umroi Cantonment in India, aims to strengthen military capabilities and enhance the synergy between the two nations. ([Click to read complete article](#))
- In a groundbreaking development, Air Marshal **Sadhna S Nair** has taken on the distinguished role of Director General **Hospital Services (Armed Forces)**, marking a significant milestone in the Indian military. Notably, she is the first woman to hold this esteemed position upon her promotion to the rank of Air Marshal. ([Click to read complete article](#))
- In a significant display of international cooperation, **India and the European Union (EU)** recently carried out their first joint naval exercise in the **Gulf of Guinea**, aimed at strengthening maritime security in the region. This exercise marked a milestone in their maritime security partnership and came following the EU-India Maritime Security Dialogue in Brussels. ([Click to read complete article](#))
- The **Indian Army** inaugurated its first **Vertical Wind Tunnel (VWT)** at the **Special Forces Training School (SFTS)** in **Himachal Pradesh**. This cutting-edge facility provides military trainees with a controlled environment to enhance their **Combat Free Fall (CFF)** skills by simulating real-life free fall conditions. ([Click to read complete article](#))

Awards and Recognitions

- Chief Justice of India (CJI) **DY Chandrachud**, an distinguished alumnus of Harvard Law School, was bestowed with the prestigious '**Award for Global Leadership**' by his institution. This recognition stands as a testament to his exceptional contributions to the field of law and justice. ([Click to read complete article](#))
- In a momentous event at the White House, **US President Joe Biden** recently awarded the prestigious **White House National Medal for Technology and Innovation and the National Medal of Science** to **Ashok Gadgil** and **Subra Suresh**, respectively, in recognition of their groundbreaking work that has not only advanced scientific knowledge but also improved the quality of life for countless individuals. ([Click to read complete article](#))
- **Deep Narayan Nayak**, a dedicated teacher from **West Bengal**, has achieved recognition as one of the **top 10 finalists for the prestigious Global Teacher Prize 2023**. This esteemed award, organized annually by the UK-based Varkey Foundation in collaboration with UNESCO and Dubai Cares, a UAE-based philanthropic organization, celebrates exceptional educators from across the globe. ([Click to read complete article](#))

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Summits and Conferences News

- Indian External Affairs Minister **S. Jaishankar** recently visited **Kyrgyzstan** for a two-day trip. During his visit, he discussed various areas of cooperation with **Kyrgyz President Sadyr Zhaparov**. This visit also includes Jaishankar's participation in a meeting of the **Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO)**. ([Click to read complete article](#))
- In a significant event held in New Delhi, Union Housing and Urban Affairs Minister, Hardeep Singh Puri, inaugurated the 16th Urban Mobility India Conference and Exhibition 2023, with the theme, "**Integrated and Resilient Urban Transport**". The event, organized by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs in collaboration with the **Institute of Urban Transport (India)** and the **Delhi Metro Rail Corporation Ltd.**, aims to address critical aspects of urban transportation in the country. ([Click to read complete article](#))
- In a pioneering move, the **Department of Consumer Affairs (DoCA)** in India, in partnership with **IIT-BHU**, has launched the '**Dark Patterns Buster Hackathon 2023**.' This initiative aims to harness the collective power of hackers to develop cutting-edge solutions that protect consumers from the deceptive practices of dark patterns in e-commerce platforms. ([Click to read complete article](#))

Ranks and Reports

- The European Union Tax Observatory has published the '**Global Tax Evasion Report 2024**,' calling for a **2% global wealth tax** on billionaires. The report emphasizes the urgent need to combat tax evasion, which enables some billionaires to effectively pay between 0% to 0.5% of their wealth in taxes. The report advocates for the implementation of a global minimum tax on billionaires, set at 2% of their wealth. This measure is expected to address tax evasion and generate approximately **\$250 billion from fewer than 3,000 individuals**. The report justifies this proposal by highlighting the modest nature of the tax rate in light of billionaires' wealth growth, which has averaged 7% annually since 1995, adjusted for inflation. ([Click to read complete article](#))
- India is grappling with severe air pollution issues, with **Mumbai** ranking as the second most polluted city according to **IQAir**, a leading air quality measurement company. **Delhi**, the capital, also faces significant air quality challenges, ranking sixth globally. **The air quality index (AQI)** measures pollution levels, indicating the health risks associated with breathing the air. ([Click to read complete article](#))

- According to global research firm **Statista**, **India** has secured the **third position** worldwide in the number of financial technology (fintech) unicorns. The **United States** and the **United Kingdom** continue to dominate the field, holding the first and second positions, respectively, both in terms of quantity and overall value. ([Click to read complete article](#))

Sports News

- **Mohammad Shami** became the first Indian bowler to pick two five-wicket hauls in **ICC ODI World Cups**. Shami picked the wickets of Will Young, Rachin Ravindra, Daryll Mitchell, Mitchell Santner and Matt Henry in India's ICC Men's Cricket World Cup 2023 clash against New Zealand. ([Click to read complete article](#))
- **Shubman Gill**, the dynamic Indian opener, has created a significant mark in the world of **One Day International (ODI)** cricket by becoming the fastest player to reach 2000 runs in this format. His achievement, which surpasses a previous record held by South African great Hashim Amla, adds to his growing reputation as a rising star in the world of cricket. ([Click to read complete article](#))
- In a thrilling showdown at the **Abu Dhabi Masters 2023**, young Indian badminton talent **Unnati Hooda** emerged as the champion in the women's singles event. This remarkable win marks her second BWF Super 100 World Tour title, further solidifying her reputation as a rising star in the sport. ([Click to read complete article](#))
- Reigning **Paralympics champion Sumit Antil** on Wednesday bettered his own javelin throw **F64 world record** with a stunning **73.29m effort** on the way to winning gold as he led India's whopping **30-medal haul** on the third day of competitions at the Hangzhou Asian Para Games. ([Click to read complete article](#))
- Indian para-athletes excelled in the javelin throw events at the **Asian Para Games** in Hangzhou, China, with **Sundar Singh Gurjar** breaking a world record and Sumit Antil successfully defending his gold medal. In the men's javelin throw-**F46 final**, **India's Sundar Singh Gurjar** delivered an outstanding performance, breaking the world record with a throw of **68.60 meters**. ([Click to read complete article](#))

Schemes and Committees News

- The **PM Street Vendor's AtmaNirbhar Nidhi** (PM SVANidhi) Scheme, launched on **June 1, 2020**, has been a game-changer for India's urban street vendors. This micro-credit scheme aims to provide collateral-free working capital loans to street vendors, with a focus on empowering this marginalized community. A recent report by the **State Bank of India's** economic research department (ERD) sheds light on the remarkable impact of the scheme, particularly in terms of gender equality and socio-economic transformation. ([Click to read complete article](#))

- **RCS-UDAN**, launched in **2016**, has significantly improved air connectivity in India, focusing on remote areas and underserved regions. It completed six successful years in **2023**, marking a milestone in the country's aviation sector. ([Click to read complete article](#))
- The **43rd edition of PRAGATI**, chaired by the Prime Minister **Narendra Modi**, involved a review of eight projects that are crucial for various states in India. PRAGATI, which stands for "**Pro-Active Governance and Timely Implementation**," is an ICT-based platform that serves as a tool for intergovernmental coordination and project monitoring. The platform was launched by the Government of India in 2015, and its primary purpose is to streamline governance and expedite the implementation of critical projects. ([Click to read complete article](#))
- The **Government of the National Capital Territory of Delhi** is inviting applications from eligible students belonging to SC/ST/OBC/EWS categories for free coaching under the "**Jai Bhim Mukhyamatri Pratibha Vikas Yojna**." This initiative aims to provide coaching for various competitive examinations and entrance tests. ([Click to read complete article](#))

Science and Technology News

- In a momentous event for India's space industry, Dr. Jitendra Singh, the Union Minister of Science and Technology, unveiled **Skyroot's Vikram-1 orbital rocket in Hyderabad** on Tuesday, October 24th. With the hope of achieving a fully commercial launch in the later months of 2024, Skyroot's co-founder and CEO, **Pawan Kumar Chandana**, has emphasized the partly commercial nature of Vikram-1's inaugural launch. ([Click to read complete article](#))
- **China's** space endeavors are reaching new heights, evident in the recent launch of **Shenzhou 17** from the **Jiuquan Satellite Launch Center**. This mission highlights China's determination to explore outer space, fueled by a competitive spirit with the **United States**. ([Click to read complete article](#))



- **Reliance Jio Infocomm Ltd**, India's leading telecommunications provider has introduced '**JioSpaceFiber**' satellite broadband service. This groundbreaking initiative was officially unveiled at the **India Mobile Congress** and represents the nation's **first** satellite-driven giga fiber service. The primary goal of this satellite broadband service is to **extend high-speed internet access** to previously underserved and remote regions in India. ([Click to read complete article](#))

Important Days News

- In a significant development for the **Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC)**, **Sanjay Kumar Jain**, an officer of the Indian Railway Traffic Service (IRTS) of the 1990 batch, has been appointed as the Chairman and Managing Director (CMD). ([Click to read complete article](#))
- **United Nations Day**, observed on **October 24th each year**, commemorates the anniversary of the entry into force of the UN Charter in 1945. ([Click to read complete article](#))
- **Global Media and Information Literacy Week**, observed from **October 24 to 31** every year, is an event of great importance in the realm of information and media literacy. The theme for Global Media and Information Literacy Week 2023 is "**Media and Information Literacy in Digital Spaces: A Collective Global Agenda**." ([Click to read complete article](#))
- **UN Disarmament Week**, celebrated on **October 24 to 30, 2023**, is an annual event organized by the **United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA)**. It plays a vital role in raising awareness of the significance of disarmament and advocating for the elimination of nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction. ([Click to read complete article](#))
- **World Development Information Day**, celebrated on **October 24th** each year by the United Nations, serves as a platform to draw attention to pressing global development issues and the critical need for enhanced international cooperation to address them. Established in 1972, this day is dedicated to promoting the effective dissemination of information and mobilizing public opinion, particularly among the youth, to foster greater awareness of development challenges. Coinciding with United Nations Day, this occasion carries historical significance, commemorating the UN's beginning in 1945. ([Click to read complete article](#))
- **World Polio Day** every **October 24** highlights global efforts to eliminate polio and the importance of vaccination in protecting children from the disease. The theme for World Polio Day 2023 is "A healthier future for mothers and children." ([Click to read complete article](#))

- India's union territory of **Jammu and Kashmir** celebrates **October 26** as a public holiday to commemorate the historic signing of the **Instrument of Accession in 1947**. This significant document marked the accession of the princely state to India and set the stage for the region's integration into the Indian union. ([Click to read complete article](#))
- The **2023 World Day for Audiovisual Heritage**, observed on **October 27**, revolves around the theme **"Your Window to the World."** ([Click to read complete article](#))
- This **29 October** marks the UN's first official **International Day for Care and Support**, which recognises the legacy of the first International Day for Care founded four years ago by trade unions to accelerate public investment in to the care economy. ([Click to read complete article](#))
- The Indian Army marked the **76th 'Shaurya Diwas' in Jammu and Kashmir**, a day dedicated to commemorating a significant historical event, the landing of Indian forces in Kashmir on **27 October 1947**. This operation marked the first civil-military victory for Independent India. ([Click to read complete article](#))

Obituaries News

- **Richard Roundtree**, the iconic actor who redefined African American masculinity in the movies with his groundbreaking portrayal of the title role in **"Shaft,"** passed away on Tuesday at his Los Angeles home at the age of 81 due to pancreatic cancer. He was also recognized as the **"first black action hero."** ([Click to read complete article](#))
- **Li Keqiang**, the former premier of China, passed away due to a sudden heart attack on October 27, 2023. Aged 68, he concluded his career in March, 2023 after completing two terms in office alongside Chinese President Xi Jinping. ([Click to read complete article](#))

Miscellaneous News

- **Cyclone Hamoon**, a severe weather phenomenon, struck the **southeastern coast of Bangladesh on the 25th October 2023**, causing widespread concern and necessitating the evacuation of thousands of people. The storm, originating from the **Bay of Bengal**, has further raised questions about the increasing frequency and intensity of such weather events in the region, driven by the impacts of climate change. This meteorological event is being closely monitored by the **India Meteorological Department (IMD)** and is expected to weaken in the hours to come. ([Click to read complete article](#))

- The **Jio MAMI Mumbai Film Festival** made a return after a four-year interval with a grand ceremony at the Nita Mukesh Ambani Cultural Centre (NMACC) in **Mumbai** on October 27. The festival once again brought a diverse selection of Indian, South Asian, and world cinema to the city. The festival opened with a spectacular master ceremony, led by **Priyanka Chopra Jonas**, the chairperson of Jio MAMI. ([Click to read complete article](#))

Static Takeaways

- IRCTC Founded: 27 September 1999;
- IRCTC Headquarters: New Delhi.
- Tamil Nadu Capital: Chennai;
- Tamil Nadu Chief minister: M. K. Stalin;
- Tamil Nadu Governor: R. N. Ravi.
- United Nations Founded: 24 October 1945, San Francisco, California, United States;
- United Nations Headquarters: New York, New York, United States;
- United Nations Founders: United States, Brazil, United Kingdom, India, France, Iran;
- United Nations Secretary general: António Guterres.
- UNESCO Headquarters: Paris, France
- UNESCO Founders: India, United States, France, Mexico, China, Brazil, MORE
- UNESCO Founded: 16 November 1945, London, United Kingdom
- UNESCO Head: Audrey Azoulay; (Director-General)
- UNESCO Parent organization: United Nations Economic and Social Council
- WHO Head: Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus;
- WHO Founded: 7 April 1948;
- WHO Headquarters: Geneva, Switzerland.
- Indian School of Business Founded: 2001
- Indian School of Business Chairperson: Harish Manwani
- Indian School of Business Dean: Madan Pillutla
- Indian School of Business Campus: Urban, 260 acres (105.2 ha)
- Indian School of Business Founders: Rajat Gupta, anil kumar
- European Union Founded: 1 November 1993, Maastricht, Netherlands;
- European Union Founders: Germany, France, Italy, Netherlands, Belgium, Luxembourg.
- Rajasthan Capital: Jaipur;
- Rajasthan Chief minister: Ashok Gehlot;
- Rajasthan Governor: Kalraj Mishra.
- Chairperson, Co-founder & COO of MobiKwik: Upasana Taku